New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

Local Government

Shared recreation services proposal being developed (07/02/19)

NB 199

Feb. 19, 2007

FREDERICTON (NB) - The Department of Local Government, along with representatives from the city, the neighbouring Local Service Districts (LSDs) and the Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport are in the process of developing a renewed shared recreational services proposal. Local Government Minister Victor Boudreau today said this process was initiated following the release of the Ombudsman's Report in December 2006, related to the City of Fredericton Non-Resident User Fees.

In 2005, the city decided to undertake the construction of two new ice complexes and the refurbishing of the Lady Beaverbrook Rink. A proposal to share a portion of the capital and operating cost via property taxation failed to achieve the required support from the LSDs and the Village of New Maryland.

The provincial ombudsman made recommendations to help address the issue including, among others, redefining the proposal and communicating it to all residents of the LSDs. The focus is now on moving forward in developing a joint proposal for consideration and support by city council and the residents of neighboring LSDs.

"I'm delighted that the interested parties have expressed a willingness to work jointly in producing a new proposal for the sharing of recreation services," Boudreau said. "The department is ready to provide leadership in the development and communication of the joint proposal and in the measurement of local support."

"The city is supportive of the process and looks forward to the development of a proposal that reflects the many benefits of recreation services for users and the broader community," said Dan Keenan, chairperson of the City of Fredericton's Community Partnership Committee.

In developing the proposal, a shared services framework will be used. This will address the sharing of recreation services including which areas are covered, how much the services will cost and how the cost will be shared. As well, how a shared recreation services agreement is to be managed will also be considered as part of the process.

The final proposal will be shared in late March with all the residents of the LSDs involved. An organized voting process will follow in the spring to measure local support in each of the LSDs involved. The LSDs of Douglas, Estey's Bridge, Hanwell, Keswick Ridge, Kingsclear, Lincoln, New Maryland, Noonan, Saint Mary's and Maugerville are participants in the process.

07/02/19

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07/02/19

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